

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CPR-01 SY-05 NSC-05 PRS-01 SAM-01

SP-02 EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /049 W

----- 083752

R 170811Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4739

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LT, BC, US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD

REF: GABORONE 327

1. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION MARCH 14 PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN TOLD ME THAT AAI VICE PRESIDENT FERRARI HAD ENCOURAGED HIM TO VISIT THE U.S. ENROUTE TO THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN JAMAICA APRIL 29 - MAY 6. JONATHAN TOLD FERRARI HE WOULD DO SO IF A MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED WITH PRESIDENT FORD. JONATHAN STATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD INFORMED AMBASSADOR MANARE THAT A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD COULD NOT BE ARRANGED IN CONNECTION WITH HIS VISIT TO THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE BUT MIGHT TAKE PLACE AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

2. I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD A VERY BUSY SCHEDULE BUT DESIRE FOR A MEETING WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WOULD (A) CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD US-LESOTHO BI-LATERAL RELATIONS, (B) DEMONSTRATE OUR APPRECIATION FOR GOL SUPPORT ON KEY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, AND (C) PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEM, ALL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. IN

THE BLS CONTEXT I FEEL A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA WOULD
BE MORE HELPFUL TO THE U.S. OVERALL INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL AND SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY IF
IT NOT FEASIBLE FOR PRESIDENT SEE BOTH LEADERS. AT SAME TIME
I RECOMMEND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO JONATHAN'S
OBVIOUS DESIRE SEE PRESIDENT, IF NOT IN APRIL THEN AT LATER
DATE. MEETING WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IN RETAINING GOL
SUPPORT ON ASIAN ISSUES AT NEXT UNGA.
BOLEN

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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